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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,162	02/08/2002	Nobuchika Hirashima	7388/72600	7831
42798	7590	11/29/2005		
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY P. O. BOX 65973 WASHINGTON, DC 20035			EXAMINER LUONG, SHIAN TINH NHAN	
			ART UNIT 3728	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/049,162

Applicant(s)

HIRASHIMA ET AL

Examiner

Shian T. Luong

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13, 15-18, 20-25 and 27-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13, 15-18, 20-25 and 27-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 11-13,15-18,20-25,28-29,30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claims 11,20,28-30, the term “to which the flexible tape type support contacts, through the adhesive layer” has no clear meaning. It is uncertain how the support contacts through the adhesive layer from the adhesive layer. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 11-13,15-16, 20-24, 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art on page 1 of the specification in view of Timaiuolo and Haines (US 3,835,995) or Kntzner et al. (US 6, 1 55,423) and Cronk et al. (US 6,769,428). Admitted Prior Art discloses external patch rolls composed of a dispenser core and a strip-like patch wrapped around the outer perimeter side. The external patches are usually constructed with a support made of nonwoven fabric, an adhesive layer laminated on one side thereof and a covering attached to the adhesive layer in a releasable manner. Admitted Prior Art does not disclose two covers adjacent to the roll and the specific material. Tomiuolo teaches an adhesive bandage on a strip of material. The bandages are separated by perforations or slits. It would have

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been obvious in view of Tomiuolo to provide covers attached to the spool to surround the edges of the strip to prevent contamination. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the side covers out of ployacrylonitrile resin and the core and covering layer out of polyethylene terephthalate resin, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re L eshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Haines or Kntaer et al. teaches laminated package with perforation lines. Perforation lines separate the individual units on the package. It would have been obvious in view of Haines or Kntzner et al. to provide perforations that extend through the laminated layers to facilitate separation of the units. The position of the tear off cutting lines are substantially identical to that of the tear off cutting lines in the rest of the laminated layers.

With regard to the percutaneous absorption drug, Cronk et al. teaches an adhesively applied strip. The strip has a support layer 230, an adhesive 232 with a drug thereon. The drug consists of transdermal substances and antihistamines. It would have been obvious to provide drug such as antihistamines, ephedrine, etc on the adhesive layer as a type of medication for usage.

4. Claim 17-18, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to claims 11 and 20, further in view of Praneo et al. (US 5,924,573) and Kennedy (US 5,655,659) and Augst et al. (US 5,496,605). The modified reference does not disclose the width and spacing of the perforation slits. But one of ordinary skill in the art would determine the proper width of the slit and the spacing between the slits

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through routine experiments. Hence, it would have been obvious to provide a width of 1.0-2.0mm, a slit spacing of 1.0-1.5mm and the breaking strength of 7.36-15.24kgF48 mm width by experimenting different size of cut and location. The slit width and spacing is to facilitate separation of a portion of the tape type support. To make the slit a certain width and to determine the spacing therebetween is an indication of how much effort a user has to assert in order to separate a portion of the tape type support. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize different width and spacing as conventional knowledge to improve the tearing strength required of a user. Piraneo et al., for example, teaches that the slit pattern is selected to allow an easy opening and removal of the article. August et al. teaches that when the spacing between perforations are too long it is difficult to separate and accidental and unintended separation is likely when the perforations are too short. The reference discussed the right tensile strength should be determined to prevent premature separation and sufficient reduction in tensile strength to ensure easy and consistent separation. August et al. achieved the result by considering various variable and test the variables. Finally, Kennedy is also cited to show that spacing between perforations is about 1.02mm.

Conclusion

5. Telephone inquiries regarding the status of applications or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to the examiners. In as much as the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining groups, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information without contacting the examiners, M.P.E.P. 203.08.

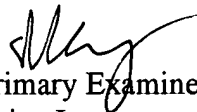
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If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g., copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, form PTO-892, etc., requests for copies of such papers should be directed to Erica Miller at (571) 272-4370.

For applicant's convenience, the official FAX number is ~~571-273-8300~~. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify Examiner Luong of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet of any correspondence submitted.

Inquiries concerning the merits of the examination should be directed to Shian Luong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4557. The examiner can normally be reached on M-H from 7:00am to 4:00pm EST.

STL
November 23, 2005


Primary Examiner
Shian Luong
Art Unit 3728